

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OPIC-06 XMB-04

COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-15 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 019210

R 110535Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1109

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0409

STATE PASS OPIC, EXIM, COMMERCE FOR MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, BTIO, KU, SU

SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORTS PROJECT - SUDAN ABESTOS MINING

REF: KUWAIT 0681

1. EMBASSY CONFIRMS INFO REPORTED REFTEL. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS: COMPANY WILL BE 49 PERCENT GOS WITH BALANCE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN JOHNS-MANVILLE AND GULF INTERNATIONAL. GULF WILL MATCH DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR ALL FOREIGN LOANS. GOS SHARE WILL BE EXTERNALLY FINANCED. EXTENSIVE INVESTMENT CONCESSIONS WERE GRANTED, INCLUDING PARTIAL WAIVER OF ROYALTY TAX. PRODUCTION WILL BEGIN IN 18-24 MONTHS. DEPOSIT IS LOCATED IN INGESSANA HILLS AND OALA EN-NAHL AREAS, IN BLUE NILE AND KASSALA PROVINCES. SOME 2,000 WORKERS WILL BE EMPLOYED, INCLUDING 30 EXPATRIATES.

2. COMMENT: NOT HITHERTO KNOWN FOR ITS MINERAL SOURCES, THIS WOULD NO DOUBT AROUSE SUBSTANTIALY GREATER INTEREST

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AS COUNTRY NOT WELL EXPLORED AND,

AS LARGEST IN AFRICA, QUITE POSSIBLY WELL ENDOWED.
DEAL IS INTERESTING IN THAT IT DEMONSTRATES GOS
WILLINGNESS TAKE LESS THAN MAJORITY SHARE AND ALLOW
MAJOR PROJECT BE CONTROLLED BY PRIVATE INVESTORS.
ALSO, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS IS FIRST TIME U.S.
FIRM HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY MAJOR WAY WITH KUWAITIS
IN SUDAN.

3. FOR USDOC: EXPORT POTENTIAL OF PROJECT IS OBVIOUS
AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF U.S. FIRMS
ASAP. BREWER

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NNN

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